



Town of Dumfries  
Council Meeting

Meeting Date:

May 8, 2012

Agenda Item#

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AGENDA ITEM FORM

**TYPE OF AGENDA ITEM:**

- ☒ CONSENT AGENDA  
☐ PRESENTATION  
☐ ACTION ITEM  
☐ TOWN MANAGER & STAFF COMMENTS  
☐ PUBLIC HEARING  
☐ Duly Advertised

**PURPOSE OF ITEM:**

- ☐ INFORMATION ONLY  
☐ DISCUSSION ONLY  
☒ DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION  
☐ Introduction ☒ Resolution  
☐ Ordinance ☐ Grant/MOU  
☐ By Motion ☐ Bylaws

**PRESENTER:**

Christine Sanders

**PRESENTER TITLE:**

Town Attorney

**AGENDA ITEM:**

Dumfries Town Council Invocation Policy

**BACKGROUND / SUMMARY:**

Follow-up from April 17, 2012 meeting and a meeting of the ad hoc prayer committee (the Committee) held on Wednesday, April 25, 2012.

At the meeting of the Committee, it was decided that to accommodate persons of all faiths, a moment of silence is the best way to allow all to pray in each individual's way according to the tenants of each individual's faith. A moment of silence was determined to be the most inclusive Invocation policy. Additionally, it also allowed those who may choose not to pray to do so without calling attention to themselves while still affording those who desire to pray before council meetings to participate in the manner of each individual's choosing. An Invocation Policy comprised of a moment of silence meets the needs of all residents of the Town of Dumfries and all visitors to Council meetings.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Resolution

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

☐ NO ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt the resolution

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

Name:

Christine R. Sanders

Phone#:

703-221-3400 x112

E-mail:

[csanders@dumfriesva.gov](mailto:csanders@dumfriesva.gov)

**FOR USE DURING MEETING**

**VOTE:**

☐ PASSED

☐ NOT PASSED

Y	N	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Barr
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jurgensen
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant

Y	N	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foreman
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Toney

Y	N	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Forrester
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Washington

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE DUMFRIES TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2012, IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 17755 MAIN STREET, DUMFRIES, VIRGINIA: ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY \_\_\_\_\_, AND SECONDED BY \_\_\_\_\_, THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

Dorothea D. Barr, \_\_\_\_\_;  
Gerald M. Foreman, II, \_\_\_\_\_;  
Kristin W. Forrester, \_\_\_\_\_;  
Michele D. Jurgensen, \_\_\_\_\_;  
Willie J. Toney, \_\_\_\_\_;  
Gwen P. Washington, \_\_\_\_\_;  
Vacant

**INVOCATION POLICY FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL  
MEETINGS FOR THE TOWN OF DUMFRIES**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council desires to be open and respectful and create an environment that is open and welcoming of all visitors, residents and business owners; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council does not wish to have the effect of affiliating the government of the Town of Dumfries with any particular faith, belief, creed, or religion. Nor does the Town Council wish to express any preference for or against, any faith or religion or religious organization; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council acknowledges and expresses its respect for the diversity of religious denominations, faiths and creeds represented and practiced among the citizens of the Town of Dumfries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council adopted a resolution on September 21, 2010 setting an invocation policy that Council wishes to rescind.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Dumfries Town Council that the Town of Dumfries does hereby adopt the following invocation policy for Town Council meetings:

- The Invocation Policy adopted September 21, 2010 by Town Council is hereby rescinded; and
- The Invocation will be at the beginning of the agenda at a time certain so that anyone desiring to do so may avoid the Invocation; and
- No elected official, Town employee nor anyone at the meeting shall be required to or encouraged to participate in the Invocation; and
- In order to meet the needs of all Town residents and attendees at Town Council meetings, the Invocation will consist of a moment of silence so that all persons who wish to do so may pray silently.

By Order of Council:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald M. Foreman, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn Hobgood, Town Clerk